

ships and shipping

Duxbury Clipper

Wednesday, May 1, 2002

New Info on King Caesar's Fleet

On Tuesday, May 14, Patrick Browne, the Director of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society, will give a lecture based on a new research project at the Society.

"A year ago," says Browne, "we started an analysis of what is probably the most historically valuable source in our archives." That is a leather bound volume inscribed "E. Weston's vessel memorandum book." It contains detailed notes on all the voyages of Ezra Weston's (the shipbuilder and merchant known as King Caesar) fleet between 1830 and 1856.

A database was created to house the information on computer. After which, a diligent Society volunteer, Linda Pisani, keyed data for months, transcribing information on voyages, dates, master mariners, points of departure and destinations. The handwriting alone was a chore to read.

The result of all this work is

a database detailing 1,264 port-to-port voyages of King Caesar's vessels. Now one can discover with the click of a mouse the exact whereabouts of King Caesar's fleet in October 1836, or any other date for that matter.

During his lecture, Browne will discuss the most common ports of call for King Caesar's fleet, the average amount of

time it took his vessels to travel from the United States to specific ports, the typical cargoes carried by his vessels, and a number of other patterns which emerge from the database.

The lecture will take place at the Nathaniel Winsor, Jr. House, 479 Washington Street at 7 p.m. Those interested in attending are asked to call 781-934-6106 as space is limited.